



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Executive Officer

July 31, 2007

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: MONTELLANO AVENUE
LANDSLIDE REPAIR PROJECT
HACIENDA HEIGHTS
AWARD GEOTECHNICAL CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 4)
(3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Award and authorize the Director of Public Works to execute an Agreement with Cotton, Shires & Associates, Inc., to provide geotechnical services for the design and construction phases of the Montellano Avenue Landslide Repair project for a not-to-exceed fee of \$867,800 to be effective subsequent to Board approval.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended action is to allow the Department of Public Works to initiate the geotechnical consultant services needed to begin the design phase of the Montellano Avenue Landslide Repair project, which will result in the stabilization of the landslide and adjoining public and private property.

The proposed project involves a complex landslide repair of County-owned right-of-way in a residential hillside area in Hacienda Heights. The design of the walls and grading necessary to stabilize the landslide requires special skills and knowledge. Cotton, Shires & Associates, Inc. specialize in this type of work and was determined to be the best qualified firm to provide the required services of those that responded to a Request for Proposals issued April 3, 2007.

Board of Supervisors
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The residential tract where the project is located was constructed in the late 1960s. The slope failed in 1983 and was repaired by the County in 1999 after a lengthy lawsuit between the County and the Developer. As a result of the lawsuit, the Developer was found responsible for 100 percent of the repair costs.

The current Montellano Avenue landslide occurred in March 2005 following the heavy winter rains. This landslide is located adjacent to the previously repaired landslide between Heather Field Drive and Montellano Avenue. The impacted area is a steep slope approximately 150 feet high.

Following completion of the design documents, we plan to return to your Board with recommendations regarding the contract process, project costs, and funding.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The County Strategic Plan directs that we provide Community Services (Goal 6) and Public Safety (Goal 8) to protect residential homes and public infrastructure in the community.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The recommended Agreement is for a not-to-exceed fee of \$867,800. Funding for this Agreement is included in the Fiscal Year 2007-08 Road Fund Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

A standard Agreement, in the form previously approved by County Counsel, will be used. The standard Board-directed clauses that provide for Contract termination, renegotiation, and hiring qualified displaced County employees will be included.

As requested by your Board on August 12, 1997, and as a threshold requirement for consideration for award of this Agreement, Cotton, Shires & Associates, Inc. is willing to consider the County's Greater Avenues for Independence or General Relief Opportunity for Work Programs participants for future employment.

As required by your Board, language has been incorporated into the project specifications stating that the contractor shall notify its employees, and shall require each subcontractor to notify its employees, about Board Policy 5.135 (Safely Surrendered Baby Law) and that they may be eligible for the Federal Earned Income Credit under Federal income tax laws.

Cotton, Shires & Associates, Inc. is in full compliance with Los Angeles County Code Chapter 2.200 (Child Support Compliance Program) and Chapter 2.203 (Contractor Employee Jury Service Program).

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Awarding this Agreement is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act. The appropriate environmental documentation will be completed prior to returning to your Board to request authorization to construct the project.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

On April 3, 2007, the Department of Public Works issued a Request for Proposals to six consultant firms and advertised on the County Bid Website. As requested by your Board on February 3, 1998, this Contract opportunity was listed on the *Doing Business with Us* website. Thirteen firms responded to the solicitation. Due to the urgency of the project, oral interviews were conducted by telephone on April 12 and 16, 2007. On April 17, 2007, the Department of Public Works evaluated the interviews and ranked the following participating firms: Allwest Geoscience, Inc.; Converse Consultants; Cotton, Shires & Associates; Inc., Eberhart/United Consultants; Feffer Geological; GMU Geotechnical, Inc.; GeoDesign, Inc.; Geomatrix; Group Delta Consultants, Inc.; Leighton Consulting, Inc.; Ninyo and Moore; Sanders & Associates Geotechnical Engineering, Inc.; and Zeiser Kling Consultants, Inc.

The Evaluation Committee selected Cotton, Shires & Associates, Inc. as the best-qualified firm for this project. Cotton, Shires & Associates, Inc. Community Business Enterprises participation data and 3-year contracting history with the County are on file with the Department of Public Works.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There will be no impact on current County services or projects during the performance of the recommended services.

Honorable Board of Supervisors
July 31, 2007
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CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Department of Public Works, Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Division.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David E. Janssen", with a stylized flourish at the end.

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Executive Officer

DEJ:DLW
GK:ss

c: County Counsel
Department of Public Works (Architectural Engineering, Road Maintenance)